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Letter dated 24 January 2007 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 October 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. The present report covers the period from 1 to 31 October 2006.

2. As of 25 October 2006, the total number of troops in theatre was 16,174, which included 2,700 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There was no change to the status of partner/non-NATO nation contributions.

Political situation

4. The Serbian constitutional referendum held on 28 and 29 October 2006 was the main event during the month of October. The Kosovo Force (KFOR) closely monitored the referendum. Except for some celebrations and gathering particularly in Mitrovica North and Gracanica, overall, the situation remained peaceful. The special envoy of the Secretary-General, Martii Ahtisaari, met with the Contact Group on 21 October 2006 to present some of his preliminary ideas for the future of Kosovo. There are no direct indicators threatening the safe and secure environment, although the current political landscape keeps the situation tense.

Security

5. During the reporting period, the number of inter-ethnic incidents decreased.

6. During the reporting period, one incident against a KFOR soldier was recorded.

7. During the reporting period, 236 incidents related to unexploded ordnance, illegal weapons possession, weapons and ammunition findings, drugs, human trafficking and counterfeit currency were recorded, compared to 247 incidents the previous month. Weapons seizures made up the vast majority of incidents. It has been assessed that smuggling activities will continue to be one of the highest threats to a safe and secure environment within Kosovo.

8. KFOR undertook a number of measures to avoid any incident during the Serbian constitutional referendum. As a result, the ballot boxes left Kosovo as of 30 October without any significant incident, except for a few minor demonstrations.

Compliance with the statement of principles of the Commander of the Kosovo Force and regulation 1999/8 of the United Nations Interim Mission in Kosovo

9. One existing case of non-compliance was received from the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC); its staffing is ongoing.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. The percentage of minorities within KPC is short of the goal of 10 per cent established by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The recruitment of minorities remains a KPC priority. There are 22 open slots in the active personnel establishment list.

11. In accordance with operation plan 10501 REV2, KFOR continues to support UNMIK in training KPC on civilian and non-political aspects.

12. The Disciplinary and Recruitment Board dismissed one KPC member. No new ethnic minority members were appointed.

13. The current active personnel establishment is 3,030. There were 223 (7.35 per cent) active ethnic minority members (192 males, 31 females): 37 Ashkalis, 4 Romas, 12 Egyptians, 19 Croats, 40 Bosniaks, 14 Muslims, 38 Turks, 1 Goran and 58 Serbs.

14. KPC conducted the following courses during the month of October: officer basic course, officer career course, non-commissioned officer instructor's course, university scholars first and second generation course, English language course and computers course. There was a total of 132 attendees. KPC also conducted a simulation exercise. One area of concern is the low level of KPC attendance at a number of KFOR-provided classes. In some instances less than 50 per cent of expected attendees showed up. This issue has been raised with KPC.

15. During October, there were six approved ceremonies which involved more than 45 KPC members and more than 500 civilians. No incidents were reported.

Conclusion

16. The overall situation in Kosovo remains calm but unpredictable as the status talks progress. The population continues to be more concerned with the difficulties of daily life than with politics and propaganda surrounding the status talks. The threat level against UNMIK and other international community facilities remains medium, while the threat level against KFOR is low.